

From: Griffis, Tom
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/9/02 5:17pm
Subject: Microsoft 'settlement'

Dear Sir or Madam,

Since the Supreme Court has affirmed the lower courts decision that found that Microsoft was guilty of violating our anti-trust laws, I feel that Microsoft should be punished in accordance with the laws and precedents concerning same.

The proposed 'settlement' currently before the court is a sham, that does little more than slap the wrist of Microsoft. Bill Gates and company are dancing in the halls with glee and visions of owning the world, as it relates to desktop computers and software.

Since the illegal practices utilized by Microsoft caused grievous damage to the Netscape corporation and others, any remedy should 'unfetter a market from anticompetitive conduct,' Ford Motor Co., 405 U.S. at 577, and 'terminate the illegal monopoly, deny to the defendant the fruits of its statutory violation, and ensure that there remain no practices likely to result in monopolization in the future,' United States v. United Shoe Mach. Corp., 391 U.S. 244, 250 (1968).

The only way that this can be accomplished is to split Microsoft into multiple companies! One company that deals only in operating systems that, by definition, are vehicles upon which application software packages ride and do not provide direct application functionality. The rest of Microsoft could then be divided into software utilities, productivity suites, games, etc., company(s).

As a 30 year computer software engineer on IBM mainframes, military computers, and desktop computers, I do have knowledge in this area, which greatly exceeds the knowledge of the general populace. I already have a hard time finding desirable software that I can run on my personal and work computers that is not made by Microsoft. All of the really good stuff is already gone, swallowed by the behemoth of software, Microsoft. The few remaining companies tremble in fear that mighty MS may soon decide to cut them off from the information necessary to compete, if not actually force them out of business! And, all of this is killing my wallet! As long as Microsoft can continue to raise the price of their operating systems by integrating more and more application software, our economy will continue to suffer! The price of Personal Computers has dropped to one-third of their original price, while the price of Windows has increased in the same time period. And, as MS drives competition out of the market, the price on MS application software continues to rise.

The time to punish Microsoft is now, before it is too late!

Sincerely,
Thomas Griffis

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